

took a leave of absence to raise her four children: Louise, Richard, William Jr. and James. As her family moved to a new home in 1950 near the Newlon School, the Greenwoods initiated the integration of the neighborhood. Their children became the first African Americans to attend Newlon and Marie and William R. Greenwood, Marie's husband, created the framework at that school for what we now know as a Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Marie organized a preschool program and became the first PTA president. In 1953, she returned to teaching as a primary grade substitute teacher with the desire to teach full-time at the Newlon school.

In 1955, in spite of the administration's alleged discrimination against minority teachers and their practice of assigning African American teachers only to schools in the then predominantly African American neighborhood of Northeast Denver, Marie obtained a regular teaching position at Newlon School. This was due, in part, to the PTA mothers who recognized Marie's proficiency as a teacher and advocated on her behalf. Her keen ability to relate to both students and teachers, along with her belief that every child can learn, earned her recognition as one of the best teachers in the Denver Public Schools. Marie retired from teaching in 1974, but completed her book "Every Child Can Learn", which looks back on her 30 years of experience and discusses the challenges she faced during that time.

The Denver community is fortunate to have such a strong role model and leader in Marie Louise Anderson Greenwood. She continues helping children and promoting literacy through the "Read Aloud" program, which has adult volunteers reading books to young children both in Denver Public Schools and at Denver Public Libraries. She has maintained her dedication to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for more than 75 years. Marie is also still active in her church. At 97 years old, her exuberance and spirit are reflected in her active involvement in the liturgical dance ministry of Shorter AME Church of which she has been a member since 1927.

Marie has been recognized by several organizations for her many years as an educator and overcoming prejudice throughout her career. She was honored in 1997 as a pioneer

in her field by The University of Northern Colorado Alumni Association, where a teaching scholarship has been established in her name. In 2001, the Denver Public Schools even built a school and named it the Marie L. Greenwood K-8 school in her honor. Race relations in America have not improved as quickly as we would ever hope, but without pioneers like Marie Greenwood leading the way, barriers would never be broken and dreams would never become reality. In advance of our annual commemoration of the life and lessons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., please join me in paying tribute to Marie Louise Anderson Greenwood for her life's work as a distinguished educator, public servant and social trailblazer.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MEMPHIS MUSIC ICON WILLIE MITCHELL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Willie Mitchell, a great Memphis music performer, producer, icon, and patriarchal figure to many jazz and R&B artists. Willie Mitchell was a great trumpeter, bandleader, and early in his career had worked with talented artists, including Otis Clay. After the passing of Joe Coughi, Willie Mitchell took over Hi Records on Lauderdale Street in South Memphis where he assembled house band Hi Rhythm and defined the sounds of O.V. Wright, Syl Johnson, Ann Peebles, and many others.

Willie Mitchell's greatest find could, arguably, be singer Al Green. As a great horn player and musician, Willie Mitchell was performing in Texas and Al Green was on the bill. He told Al Green, "Come back to Memphis and I'll make you a star"—and Willie Mitchell made it happen for Al Green. That happened often in Memphis someone saying,—"Come to Memphis and I'll make you a star." And then Al Green helped to unite the sounds of jazz and R&B to meet the demands of a new era of music. Speaking about Al Green, Willie

Mitchell marveled that "... of all the singers, he was the only one that could hear jazz changes and really sing in that style ... and it was just hit after hit."

Willie Mitchell's contributions and influence transcends the boundaries of place and time. Detroit's distinguished Motown Records, headed by Berry Gordy, Jr., sent a team down to Hi Records to learn the secret behind Willie Mitchell's sound. These sounds can still be heard in recent string and horn arrangements on Rod Stewart's newest album "Soulbook," a soon-to-be released album by legend Solomon Burke and in the current artistry of pop singer John Mayer, hip-hop artist Anthony Hamilton, and others.

Willie Mitchell received many awards including the 2008 GRAMMYS Trustees Award for a lifetime of achievements. In 2004, the portion of Lauderdale Street in front of Royal Studios in Memphis, which Willie Mitchell retained after the sale of Hi Records in the late 70s, was renamed "Willie Mitchell Boulevard" by the City.

Willie Mitchell was laid to rest today in Memphis. He gave people lots of love and happiness and reasons to stay together—he and Al Green. We'll all miss Willie Mitchell. I appreciate the fact that he came our way and helped produce the Memphis sound and became part of that great Memphis legend of soul music. He was loved by his musical community and by his family. He leaves two wonderful daughters, two grandsons who became his sons, a step-son and a musical history and tradition that will live on forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today I missed rollcall vote No. 1, on a quorum call of the House. Had I been able to, I would have voted "present" on this rollcall vote.